

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, and 27 to 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,256,662 (Lo). The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

The invention relates to a scanner connection apparatus (e.g., 100) which is located between a scanner control apparatus (e.g., 500) and an image scanner (e.g., 200). The scanner connection apparatus has an instruction operation means that is enabled in accordance with data from a network, and, after the instruction operation means is enabled and an instruction is input from the instruction operation means, the apparatus instructs the scanner device to start reading in accordance with an instruction from the instruction operation means and transmits image data from the scanner device to the network. That is, both an instruction to start reading and an instruction for transmission are made by the instruction operation means of the claimed apparatus.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 6 is directed to a scanner connection apparatus, having a network interface and a scanner interface for connecting to a scanner device, which is connected to a network and which outputs image data read by the scanner device to a control apparatus via the network interface, comprising instruction operation means for instructing an operation of the scanner device, and for instructing a transmission, via the network interface, of data received from the scanner device, input means for receiving, from the control apparatus, data via the network interface then displaying a pattern for the instruction operation means in accordance with the received

data on a predetermined display unit, enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction on the predetermined display unit and outputting an input into a predetermined instruction input unit from a user to the control apparatus via the network interface, and scanner communication means for receiving, via the network interface, an instruction command to the scanner device issued by the control apparatus in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means then outputting the received command to the scanner interface for reading operation of the scanner device, and receiving data from the scanner device via the scanner interface in accordance with the instruction of the instruction operation means, and transmitting the data, received from the scanner device, to the control apparatus via the network interface.

Claim 7 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 6.

Claim 14 includes features along the lines of Claim 7, but is more specifically directed to a scanner connection apparatus which connects a scanner device, comprising a network interface configured to connect to a network, a scanner interface connected to the scanner device, instruction operation means for instructing an operation of the scanner device, and for instructing a transmission, via the network interface, of data received from the scanner device, command execution means for receiving an instruction command from a predetermined control apparatus on the network via the network interface, and enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device, input means for inputting an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device after the enabling of the instruction operation means to input the instruction, and output means for outputting data, received from the

scanner device by the scanning operation of the scanner device, to the control apparatus via the network interface in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means.

Claim 15 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 14.

The applied art of Lo is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 6, 7, 14 and 15. In particular, Lo is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a scanner connection apparatus having i) an input means for receiving, from a control apparatus, data via a network interface then displaying a pattern for an instruction operation means in accordance with the received data on a predetermined display unit, enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction on the predetermined display unit and outputting an input into a predetermined instruction input unit from a user to the control apparatus via the network interface, and ii) scanner communication means for receiving, via the network interface, an instruction command to the scanner device issued by the control apparatus in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means then outputting the received command to the scanner interface for reading operation of the scanner device, and receiving data from the scanner device via the scanner interface in accordance with the instruction of the instruction operation means, and transmitting the data, received from the scanner device, to the control apparatus via the network interface. With regard to Claims 14 and 15, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of a scanner connection apparatus having i) command execution means for receiving an instruction command from a predetermined control apparatus on the network via the network interface, and enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device, ii) input means for inputting an

instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device after the enabling of the instruction operation means to input the instruction, and iii) output means for outputting data, received from the scanner device by the scanning operation of the scanner device, to the control apparatus via the network interface in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means.

Claim 27 also includes features along the lines of Claims 6, 7, 14 and 15, is more specifically directed to a scanner connection apparatus which connects a scanner device, comprising a network interface configured to connect to a network, a scanner interface connected to the scanner device, instruction operation means for instructing an operation of the scanner device, and for instructing a transmission, via the network interface, of data received from the scanner device, command execution means for receiving an instruction command from a predetermined control apparatus on the network via the network interface, and enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device, input means for inputting an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device after the enabling of the instruction operation means to input the instruction, and inputting an instruction designating plural destinations, in which different transmission categories are included, for data received from the scanner device, and output means for outputting data, received from the scanner device by the scanning operation of the scanner device to the network via the network interface in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means.

Claim 29 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 27.

Similar to Claims 6, 7, 14 and 15, Lo is not seen to disclose or to suggest

the features of Claims 27 and 29, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of i) command execution means for receiving an instruction command from a predetermined control apparatus on the network via the network interface, and enabling the instruction operation means to input an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device, input means for inputting an instruction for a scanning operation of the scanner device after the enabling of the instruction operation means to input the instruction, and inputting an instruction designating plural destinations, in which different transmission categories are included, for data received from the scanner device, and output means for outputting data, received from the scanner device by the scanning operation of the scanner device to the network via the network interface in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means.

Firstly, Applicants would venture to say that the client PC 102 of Lo corresponds to the scanner control PC 500 of this application, the scanner server 130 of Lo corresponds to the scanner/network connection apparatus 100 of this application, and the scanner 144 of Lo corresponds to the image scanner 200 of this application. Please note that the subject of claimed invention is the scanner/network connection apparatus 100, which is located between the scanner control apparatus 500 and the image scanner 200.

Regarding to claims 6 and 7, the Office Action seems to assert that “instruction operation means” recited in claim 6 corresponds to “application 104” of Lo. Applicants disagree because the “application 104” is a program which is executed on the client computer 102, and is not executed by the scanner server 130.

The Office Action also states that the “input means” recited in claim 6

corresponds to "TWAIN driver 136" of Lo. Applicants disagree with this point as well. Firstly, there is no description related to TWAIN driver in the portion pointed out by the Office Action. The box "462" of Fig. 8B merely describes that the client computer 102 transmits an open-session command to the scanner server 130, but the portion bears no relation to TWAIN driver. The box "472" of Fig. 8C of Lo pointed out by the Office Action is related to displaying on a screen of the client computer 102 by the virtual TWAIN driver 106, but bears no relation to the display of the scanner server 103. Furthermore, there is no description that the scanner server 130 displays a pattern received from the client computer 102. The box "476" of Fig. 8C merely discloses that the set scanner parameters command and the parameter are transmitted from the client computer to the scanner server 130, but there is no relation to the TWAIN driver 136 in the scanner server 130. The box "482" of Fig. 8D merely discloses that the client computer 102 transmits a get file command to the scanner server 130. Furthermore, there is no description of outputting an input into a predetermined instruction input unit from a user, to the control apparatus.

The Office Action also states that "scanner communication means" recited in claim 6 corresponds to the server protocol encoder/decoder 132 of the scanner server 130. But, the server protocol encoder/decoder 132 does not receive an instruction command to the scanner device, that instruction is issued by a control apparatus in accordance with an instruction of the instruction operation means which is a member of claimed invention.

Thus, quite contrary to the assertions made in the Office Action, Claims 6

and 7 are not anticipated by Lo.

Regarding to claims 14, 15, 27 and 29, the Office Action states that "instruction operation means" recited in claims 14 and 27 corresponds to "application 104" of Lo and "input means" recited in claims 14 and 27 also corresponds to "TWAIN driver 136" of Lo. However, for the same reasons set forth above, Applicants disagree.

The Office Action also states that "the different transmission categories" recited in claimed invention is disclosed by referring Fig. 10 of Lo. Fig. 10, however, merely indicates a window for setting scanning parameters, but does not indicate a destination to which scanned image data is transmitted. Accordingly, Lo clearly fails to teach or suggest inputting an instruction designating plural destinations, in which different transmission categories are included, for data received from said scanner device.

Thus, Claims 14, 15, 27 and 29, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are not believed to be anticipated by Lo.

As a formal matter, Applicants note that, while the Examiner returned a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 13, 2007, and that IDS included the Examiner's signature at the end of the form, the references listed therein were not initialed as having been considered, nor was the form marked to indicate that the references had been considered. Therefore, Applicants request confirmation that the references have been considered and request that a copy of the IDS confirming the same with the Examiner's initials or appropriate marking be returned with the next communication.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believe to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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